Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

also, the result of Sunday school instruction has answered the most sanguine expectation, numbering among the objects who enjoy its benefits, not merely children but adults and persons far advanced in years.

In order to show the objects of this institution, the following extracts from the general rules of the society are subjoined.

2d. The object of this society is to promote the establishment and facilitate the conducting of Sunday schools in Ireland.

3d. The society proposes to accomplish the object of their institution, by procuring and disseminating the most approved plans of conducting Sunday schools, by supplying them with spelling books and copies of the sacred Scriptures, at reduced prices, and by contributing to defray the expenses of such schools where necessary, without however interfering with their internal regulations, and as to religious instruction, confining themselves solely to the sacred Scriptures or extracts therefrom.

4th. That this society shall receive subscriptions however small, and that a subscription of one guinea annually shall constitute a member.

5th. The subscription of ten pounds at one time shall constitute a member for life.

6th. A committee of fifteen members, resident in Dublin, together with the treasurer and secretaries, shall be appointed to conduct the business of the society, three of whom to be a quorum.

7th. The committee shall have the management of the monies of the society with the exception of the funded property, they shall fill up any vacancies which may occur in their own body, shall have the power of appointing country members of the committee, and of calling extraordinary general meetings of the society when expedient, giving a fortnight's notice of the time, place and object of such meeting.

8th. The committee shall meet once a month or oftener if necessary.

10th The society shall hold their annual meeting on the last Tuesday in November, when the accounts of the preceding year and the report of the committee shall be presented.

12th. An annual report of the proceedings of the society, with an account of the state of the funds and a list of the subscribers shall be published.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

We have procured for the information of our Readers 6 additional Reports, from the 4th to the 10th inclusive, of the Commissioners of the Board of Education in Ireland. We subjoin the 4th on the Diocesan free schools. The others shall be given in succession.

FOURTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN IRELAND. ACT 46 GEO. III. DIOCESAN FREE SCHOOLS.

TO his grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. &c. &c. Lord Leutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it Please your Grace.

We the undersigned Commisioners, appointed for inquiring into the several funds and revenues granted for the purposes of education, and into the state and condition of all schools in Ireland upon public or charitable foundations, in pursuance of the powers vested in us, beg leave to submit to your grace our report upon the present state of the diocesan free schools of Ireland.

The diocesan free schools were established under the authority of an act passed in the 12 Eliz c. 1. which enacted, that there should be a free school in every diocese in Ireland; that the lord deputy or other chief governor or governors, for the time being, should appoint the schoolmasters in every diocese except those of Armagh, Dublin, Meath, and Kildare, of which the respective archbishops and bishops were to appoint the masters, that the school-house for every diocese should be erected in the principal shire town of the diocese, at the costs and charges of the whole diocese, without respect of freedoms, by the device and oversight of the ordinaries of each diocese (or the vicars general *side vacante*) and the sheriff of the shire; that the lord deputy or other chief governor, with and by the advice of the privy coun-

cil, should according to the quantity and quality of each diocese appoint such yearly pension, salary or stipend for every schoolmaster as he should think convenient, whereof the ordinaries of every diocese should pay yearly for ever the third part, and the parsons, vicars, prebendaries, and other ecclesiastical persons should pay the other two parts by an equal contribution, to be made by the ordinaries; and that all churches, parsonages, vicarages, and other ecclesiastical livings, that have come by any title whatsoever to the possession of the queen or any of her progenitors should be charged with this payment and contribution, in whose hands or possessions soever they are or shall come.

It appears that free schools were actually established under this act in most, if not all, of the dioceses in Ireland, many of which continue to exist at this time; but at no time do the appear to have fully answered the purposes of their institution; before the restoration indeed we have not been able to find any account of them, but from the state of the kingdom it is not probable they were either regularly kept or usefully conducted; soon after that event a commission, appears to have been issued by the Lord Lieutenant and council, directing the bishops of the several dioceses to carry the act of the 12. Eliz. into effect, and for that purpose to applot the sums to be paid out of the different ecclesiastical livings in each diocese for the stipend or salary of the diocesan school masters, which was accordingly done in many, and perhaps in all the dioceses; but if schools were at that time generally set on foot, they appear to have been of little public utility, partly from the want of proper school houses, and other accommodations for the masters. In the 12th George I. an act was passed empowering archbishops, bishops, &c. to set apart an acre of ground, out of any lands belonging to them, for the site of a free school, to be approved of by the chief governor for the time being; and directing, that until such ground be set out the school should be kept in such convenient place as the archbishop or bishop of the diocese should be able to procure for a yearly rent or otherwise; and further empowering the grand jury of each county to present, from time to time, such sums as they should find reasonable for their respective proportion towards building or repairing the school-houses in their counties, to be levied on the whole or such part thereof as are situated in each respective diocese. Under this act a considerable improvement appears to have taken place in the state of diocesan schools, but as presentments for the different proportions of each county in the several dioceses were found extremely inconvenient, if not impracticable, the grand jury of each county, in which a diocesan school is situated, were, by an act of 29th George II. empowered to present sums to be levied on the whole county for building or repairing the school-house; still however there are several dioceses unprovided with proper school houses, and some without any, and the general benefit derived from the whole institution is far from corresponding with the intention of the legislature, or even with the number of schools actually kept or supposed to be so. It appears from an abstract of the returns made from the several dioceses, and herewith submitted to your grace, that out of the whole number, thirty-four, composing twenty two archbishops, and bishopricks, only ten are provided with diocesan school-houses in tolerable repair; in three others the houses are either out of repair or otherwise insufficient, and the remainder are wholly unprovided, and the masters of such schools as are kept in them either rent houses for the purposes, or are accommodated in other ways. But it appears from the same returns that in some of them no diocesan school is kept at all, and in others no effective one; and that the whole number of effective schools in all the dioceses together is only thirteen, and that the whole number of scholars in all the schools together does not exceed 380. In the greater part of the dioceses in which no school is kept there is no contribution from the clergy for the payment of a master; but in some instances the salary is actually paid by the

clergy to an nominal master, who either keeps no school at all, or one on a different foundation, in which the diocesan is wholly absorbed.

These irregularities and defects in the present state of the diocesan schools appear to have arisen from various causes, in which there is little or no ground for supposing the backwardness or inattention of the bishops and clergy to have had any share; the utter unadequacy of the stipend, which is or should be collected for the maintenance of the master, and which in no *single* diocese exceeds £40. per annum, and in some is so low as £25 would alone account for the non-existence or discontinuance of these schools, except in situations otherwise advantageous, and where grammar schools would therefore be established and flourish without the aid of so inconsiderable an endowment. In several instances the establishment of other schools in their immediate vicinity with ample endowments, and on more enlarged foundations, has either wholly superseded them, or as we have already intimated has swallowed them up.

Such being the actual state of these schools, it may seem to be doubtful whether a system should be continued, which in its principal appears not altogether equitable, and has never been found efficient in practice; which is not called for by the present state of society, and, considered as a tax on the clergy, operates very partially and unequally, twelve out of thirty four dioceses contributing nothing towards its object At the period of its first establishment, the state of this country was such as to require some effectual provisions for the education even of the upper and middle classes, and as that of the lower order had been imposed on the parochial clergy by the 28th of Henry VIII. the same policy was pursued on the 12th of Eliz. and it was perhaps the wisest which in the circumstances of the times could have been adopted; at the present day it appears to be both unnecessary and ineffectual. If however it should be deemed imprudent to abandon altogether long established foundations, which however imperfect or inadequate are still productive of some advantage, we take the liberty of recommending the adoption of measures for rendering them more useful and efficient, and placing them under such regulations that every diocese may contribute its proportion towards their establishment and support; for these purposes we beg leave to suggest, that instead of requiring a school to be kept in every diocese, which has been already found impracticable, a certain number only should be established in every province, to be supported out of the contributions from each diocese in the province; or, if it should be found more convenient, out of a general fund consisting of contributions from all the dioceses in every province. Supposing the whole number of schools thus established to be twelve, and that the average contribution of the 34 dioceses was £36, the endowment of each school would be £102 per annum; but it is presumed the average might be raised to £40 without bearing hard on the clergy, especially if impropriators were obliged to contribute, and if the sons of the poorer clergy and curates were to be admitted into the schools as free scholars; in fixing on the situation for the schools, regard should be had principally to the want of proper grammar schools in the different districts in each province, and, as far as might be, to the continuance of the best of the diocesan schools already existing; by the acts of the 12th George I. and 29th George II. provision is made for building and repairing diocesan school-houses; and in the act which would be necessary for the purpose here suggested they might be so amended, as to apply and be accommodated to that purpose, and provision might be made for putting them in force.

Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, April 21st, 1809. (*Signed,*)

W. ARMAGH. (L. S.)
GEO. HALL, Provost (L. S.)
JAS. VERSHOYLE, Dean of St. Patrick's. (L. S.)
R. LOVELL EDGEWORTH. (L. S.)
JAMES WHITELAW. (L. S.)
WM. DISNEY. (L. S.)

APPEN-

ABSTRACT OF THE RETURNS OF THE DIOCESAN

DIOCESES.	SCHOOLS WHERE KEPT.	PATRONS.
Armagh	No diocesan school	— —
Dublin and Glandelagh . .	No diocesan school	— —
Tuam	In the town of Tuam	Archbishop of Tuam
and		
Ardagh	Kept at Longford	Archbishop of Tuam
Cashel	Kept at Cashel	Lord Lieutenant
and		
Emly	None	— —
Kildare	Kept at Naas	Lord bishop of Kildare
Down	Kept at Downpatrick	Lord Lieutenant
and		
Connor	. . . .	Lord Lieutenant
Leighlin	Kept at Carlow	Lord Lieutenant
and		
Ferns	Kept near Wexford	Lord Lieutenant
Elphin	Kept at Elphin	Lord Lieutenant
Meath	In the town of Trim	Lord Bishop of Meath
Limerick	No school kept	Lord Lieutenant
Ardfert	Kept at castle island, in an house formerly a charter school-house	Lord Lieutenant
and		
Aghadoe	— —	— —
Killala and Achonry . . .	No diocesan school	— —
Clonfert and Kilmacduagh .	No diocesan school	— —
Killaloe and Kilfenora . .	Kept in Killaloe	Lord Lieutenant
Waterford and Lismore . .	No diocesan school	— —
Derry	Kept at Derry	Lord Lieutenant
Dromore	Kept at Dromore	Lord Lieutenant
Cork	Kept in the city of Cork in the master's own house	Lord Lieutenant
and		
Ross	Kept at Ross Carbery	Lord Lieutenant
Clogher	Kept at Monaghan	Lord Lieutenant
Cloyne	Kept at Cloyne	Lord Lieutenant
Ossory	In the college	Lord Lieutenant
Raphoe	No diocesan school	— —

DIX.

SCHOOLS, MADE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 1808, 1809.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.	MASTERS.	SALARIES.	NUMBER OF SCHOLARS.
		£. s. d.	
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
A house and rood of Ground	Rev. J. Lawless	28 4 9	Free scholars . . . . . — Day scholars . . . . . 6 Boarders 18
House small, and in a ruinous state	Rev. J. Irwin	23 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 4 Day scholars 15
No school house	Rev. J. Torrens	40 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . — Day scholars 16
— —	— —	— —	— —
A house in very good repair, and a garden	Rev. J. Harrison	Salary 40*l.* but only 25*l.* is collected	Free Scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 10 Day scholars 10
No house	Rev. R. Wilde	30*l.* paid by the bishop, clergy, and a few impropriators	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 8 Day scholars 6
No house, a small plot of ground	Rev. R. Dobbs	40 — —	— —
A house in good order	Rev. A. O. Callaghan	25*l.* but only 15*l.* is collected	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 19 Day scholars 3
A new house, and one-fourth acre of ground	Rev. J. M'Gomery	30 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 20 Day scholars 30
A good house, and 15 acres of land	Rev. W. Smith	30 paid by bishop and clergy 10*a* bequest 40*l.*	Free scholars . . . . . 7 Boarders . . . . . 2 Day scholars 22
A school house in good repair	Rev J. Hamilton	40 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . — Day scholars 14
An old school-house in ruins	Vacant	30 per annum the salary appointed	— —
House partly in repair	Rev. J. Mahon	60 per annum paid by bishop and clergy	Free scholars . . . . . 2 Boarders . . . . . 22 Day scholars 2
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
— —	— —	— —	— —
A small house and garden	Rev. A. Allen	28 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 16 Day scholars 12
— —	— —	— —	— —
A house granted by the corporation of Derry	Rev. J. Knox	40 — —	Boarders . . . . . 17 Day scholars . . . . . 31 of whom 3 are free scholars
No house, an acre of land	Rev. F. Burrowes.	22 salary, and the profit rent of the acre of school land	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . — Day scholars 6
No house	Rev. G. Lee	30 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . — Day scholars 70
No house	Rev. G. Armstrong	30 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . 1 Day scholars . . . . . —
A school house begun 12 years ago, but never finished	Rev. S. Moffat	30 — —	Free scholars . . . . . 1 Day scholars . . . . . 6 Boarders 6
A thatched cabin in tolerable repair	Rev. W Butler	30 — —	Free scholars . . . . . — Boarders . . . . . — Day scholars 30
None	Rev. Dr. Park, master of the endowed school, called the college, receives the salary	30 — —	— —
— —		— —	— —

Chief Secretary's office, Dublin Castle, 27th March 1810. (A true Copy) *Charles Lamb.*